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APPLICATION NO.	FILING DATE	FIRST NAMED INVENTOR	ATTORNEY DOCKET NO.	CONFIRMATION NO.
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10/532,196

04/21/2005

Choon-Gon Jang

F-8647

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06/15/2006

JORDAN AND HAMBURG LLP
122 EAST 42ND STREET
SUITE 4000
NEW YORK, NY 10168

EXAMINER

CHU, YONG LIANG

ART UNIT

PAPER NUMBER

1626

DATE MAILED: 06/15/2006

Please find below and/or attached an Office communication concerning this application or proceeding.

DETAILED ACTION

Claim 1 is amended by amendment filed on 21 April 2005. Claims 48 are added by amendment filed on 21 April 2005. Therefore, claims 1-8 are currently pending in the instant application.

Election/Restrictions

Restriction is required under 35 U.S.C. 121 and 372.

Lack of Unity Requirement

Claims 1-8 are drawn to more than one inventive concept (as defined by PCT Rule 13), and accordingly, a restriction is required according to the provision of PCT Rule 13.2.

PCT Rule 13.2 states that the international application shall relate to one invention only or to a group of inventions so linked as to form a single general inventive concept (requirement of unity of invention).

PCT Rule 13.2 states unity of invention referred to in Rule 13.1 shall be fulfilled only when there is a technical relationship among those inventions involving one or more of the same or corresponding special technical features.

Annex B, Part 1 (b), provides that "special technical features" mean those technical features, which, as a whole, define a contribution over the prior art.

Annex B, Part 1 (e), provides combinations of different categories of claims and states:

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"The method for determining unity of invention under Rule 13 shall be construed as permitting, in particular, the inclusion of any one of the following combinations of claims of different categories in the same international application:

(i) in addition to an independent claim for a given product, an independent claims for a process specially adapted for the manufacture of the said product, and an independent claim for use of the said product, or

(ii) in addition to an independent claim for a given process, an independent claim for an apparatus or means specially designed for carrying out the said process, or

(iii) in addition to an independent claim for a given product, and independent claim for a process specially adapted for the manufacture of the said product, and an independent claim for an apparatus or means specially designed for carrying out the said process,..."

This application contains the following inventions or groups of inventions, which are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1.

Group I: Claims 1-2, and 5-6 are drawn to a pharmaceutical composition inhibiting psychological dependence on morphine, comprising berberine, and a method of inhibiting psychological dependence on morphine comprising administering to a person having dependence on morphine a pharmaceutical composition comprising berberine and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

Group II: Claims 3-4, and 7-8 are drawn to a pharmaceutical composition inhibiting development of tolerance to analgesic effects of morphine, comprising berberine, and a method of development of tolerance to analgesic effects of morphine comprising administering to such a person a pharmaceutical composition comprising berberine and a pharmaceutically acceptable carrier.

In accordance with 37 CFR 1.499, applicant is required, in reply to this action, to elect a single invention to which the claims must be restricted.

The claims herein lack unity of invention under PCT Rules 13.1 and 13.2 because, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. 1.475(a) **Groups I-II** lack unity of invention since under 37 CFR 1.475:

Where a group of inventions is claimed in an application, the requirement of unity of invention shall be fulfilled only when there is a technical feature among those inventions involving one or more of the same or corresponding special technical features...those technical features that define a contribution which each of the claimed inventions, considered as a whole, makes over the prior art.

The common feature to **Groups I-II** is berberine, which is a well-known extract chemical compound. This technical feature is not a special technical feature, as described in the Specification that such a compound has been used in a pharmaceutical composition as anti-depression agent (Korean Pat. No. 10-0281003). Therefore, claims 1-8 are not so linked as to form a single general inventive concept and there is a lack of unity of invention.

Because the claims do not relate to a single general inventive concept under PCT Rule 13.1 and lack the same or corresponding special technical features, the claims lack unity of invention and should be limited to a product, a process for the manufacture of said product, or a method of use.

Furthermore, with respect to **Groups I-II**, even if unity of invention under 37 CFR 1.475(a) is not lacking, under 37 CFR 1.475(b) a national stage application containing

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claims to different categories of invention will be considered to have unity of invention if the claims are drawn only to one of the following combinations:

- (1) A product and a process specially adapted for the manufacture of said product; or
- (2) A product and process of use of said product; or
- (3) A product, a process specially adapted for the manufacture of the said product, and a use of the said product; or
- (4) A process and an apparatus or means specially designed for carrying out the said process; or
- (5) A product, a process specially adapted for the manufacture of the said product, and an apparatus or means specially designed for carrying out the said process.

Moreover, according to 37 CFR 1.475(c), If an application contains claims to more or less than one of the combinations of categories of invention set forth in paragraph (b), unity of invention might not be present.

In the instant case the claims are drawn to more than one product, process, and method of use. According to 37 CFR 1.475(e),

The determination whether a group of inventions is so linked as to form a single general inventive concept shall be made without regard to whether the inventions are claimed in separate claims or as alternatives within a single claim.

The claims directed to a single method of preparation and a single method of use will be examined along with the elected invention so long as it is commensurate in scope therewith.

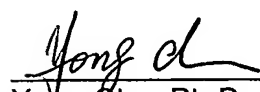
Applicant is advised that the reply to this requirement to be complete must include an election of the invention to be examined even if the restriction requirement is traversed (37 CFR 1.143).

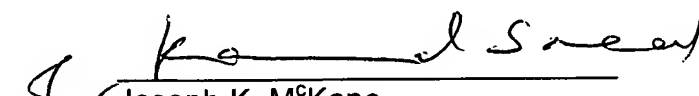
Telephone Inquiry

Any inquiry concerning this communication or earlier communications from the examiner should be directed to Yong Chu whose telephone number is 571-272-5759. The examiner can normally be reached on 7:00 am - 3:30 pm EST.

If attempts to reach the examiner by telephone are unsuccessful, the examiner's supervisor, Joseph K. McKane can be reached on (571) 272-0699. The fax phone number for the organization where this application or proceeding is assigned is 571-273-8300.

Information regarding the status of an application may be obtained from the Patent Application Information Retrieval (PAIR) system. Status information for published applications may be obtained from either Private PAIR or Public PAIR. Status information for unpublished applications is available through Private PAIR only. For more information about the PAIR system, see <http://pair-direct.uspto.gov>. Should you have questions on access to the Private PAIR system, contact the Electronic Business Center (EBC) at 866-217-9197 (toll-free).


Yong Chu, Ph.D.
Patent Examiner, AU 1626


Joseph K. McKane
Supervisory Patent Examiner
AU 1626